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To: Federal Communications Commission

Ref: America's Democracy Needs Public Access TV

I would like to submit these comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising".

Local franchising is important to our local cities and communities. It's one of the greatest expressions of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. The rest of the world admires this truly example of American openness.

In addition, without local franchises local communities will be stripped of an adequate way to make sure companies charge reasonable rates, respond to customer complaints, or that they provide universal service.

Local franchises are also cornerstone in the operation of Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV. PEG TV provides the important service of supporting localism in the media, and the making and airing of programs that reflect the diversity of American life.

PEG TV is very important in providing a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and community organizations can express their viewpoints and opinions. Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas possible is made available to all people, and PEG TV plays an important role in doing this.

As a supporter of Public Access TV in Manhattan, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises.

I am looking top hearing from you about the important matter.

Best regards,

Jordi Torrent